Washington Update

June 27, 2006

Welcome to my Washington Update, an e-mail newsletter for the constituents of California's 29th Congressional District. Through these quick-read updates, I hope to keep you informed of progress being made in Washington, D.C. and at home on public policy issues of interest to our communities.

Schiff Authors Bipartisan Amendment to Prohibit NSA Surveillance on American Soil Unless Authorized by Law

Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA) this week offered a bipartisan amendment to the Department of Defense spending bill. The amendment would block any funds from being used by the National Security Agency and other Defense Department agencies for electronic surveillance in the United States unless the surveillance complies with Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) laws. The amendment prompted a lengthy debate on the House Floor but twenty-three Republicans members crossed party lines in support of the Amendment that was defeated in a close vote.

"Electronic surveillance of those seeking to harm our country must continue; it must also comply with the law," Schiff said. "When Congress said the Administration must get court approval for domestic surveillance, we meant it. If the law needs to be revised to meet new challenges in the war on terrorism, the Administration should come to Congress and make the case for a statutory change."

To read more about the NSA amendment, please click here.

Schiff Secures Funds for Community-Based Organizations in Pasadena and for Improvements to Emergency Medical Care in Glendale

Representative Adam Schiff helped secure funds in a House Appropriations Committee measure for the Armory Center for the Arts of Pasadena's Walk to Art Program and for the Union Station Foundation of Pasadena's Family Center Program.

"The Armory Center and Union Station provide essential services to our youth and to the homeless population in our community. I am pleased that the Congress can play an important partnership role in supporting the important work done by just two of the many wonderful community based organizations in our district," Schiff said. "These resources will help improve the lives of children and families in our community by providing them new hope and opportunity."

Rep. Schiff also helped secure funding for life-saving equipment at Glendale Adventist Medical Center (GAMC). "This funding will benefit everyone in our community ensuring better access to emergency medical care," Schiff said. "These resources will allow the Glendale Adventist Medical Center to keep up with the latest advances in medical technology – ultimately providing better medical care to its patients."

For more information on this funding please use these links – Pasadena funding and Glendale funding.

During National Homeownership Month Find Out How to Achieve the Goal of Owning Your Own Home

As part of National Homeownership Month, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has set up a web site to provide prospective homebuyers with information to determine how they can afford to purchase their first home. HUD's web site provides links to a home buying guide, housing counseling agencies, and Federal Housing Authority-approved lenders. Homeownwership can often help individuals and families build financial security. Rep. Schiff encourages renters to take advantage of Homeownership Month to find out more about buying a home.

Please visit HUD's web site to find out more about homeownership at: http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mktg/homemonth2006/index.cfm

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